

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 02603 261421Z
ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /029 W
-----125710 270158Z /72

R 261339Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5904
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OSLO 2603

DEPT FOR AMBASSADOR DOBELL

WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

FROM AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, NO
SUBJECT: BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR KING OLAV

1. ON JULY 2 KING OLAV WILL CELEBRATE HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY. SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS ARE PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS THE 3/4 CENTURY MARK IS CONSIDERED BY NORWEGIANS (SHORT OF 100 YEARS) TO BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BENCH MARK IN A PERSON'S LIFE. ADDITIONALLY, KING OLAV'S EXTRAORDINARY POPULARITY IN NORWAY GENERATED BY HIS WARTIME ROLE, HIS CONSISTENT PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE AFFAIRS AND NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE AND HIS UNQUESTIONED SINCERE CONCERN FOR NORWAY AND NORWEGIANS HAVE COMBINED TO GIVE HIM A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL NORWEGIANS. KING OLAV'S INTERNATIONAL STATURE AND THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL RESPECT WITH WHICH HE IS HELD AS EMBODYING THE BEST CHARACTERISTICS OF A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH ADD AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION TO THE JULY 2 CLEBRATIONS.

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2. IN MY OPINION, THE USG SHOULD NOTE THE OCCASION BY PRESENTING KING OLAV WITH A SPECIAL, PERSONAL BIRTHDAY GIFT. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HIS LIFE-LONG LOVE OF THE SEA, TWO POSSIBILITIES THAT OCCURRED TO ME WERE A BALLOON SPINNAKER, POSSIBLY RED, WHITE AND BLUE, OR A SPECIAL SET OF TED HOOD SAILS WITH THE ROYAL EMBLEM, FOR HIS 5.5M SLOOP. AT A MINIMUM, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GIVE HIM SOME TOKEN OF

THE ESTEEM WITH WHICH HE IS HELD BY ALL AMERICANS. SUCH
A GESTURE BY NORWAY'S CLOSEST ALLEY AND OLD FRIEND WOULD
BE WIDELY NOTED AND APPLAUDED.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A SHORT BIRTHDAY GREETING WHICH THE
PRESIDENT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING TO KING OLAV.
QUOTE: YOUR MAJESTY: ALL AMERICANS JOIN ME IN SENDING
MOST SINCERE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO YOU. MILLIONS OF
NORWEGIAN/AMERICANS HAVE ENRICHED THE NATIONAL LIFE OF
THE UNITED STATES FOR GENERATIONS. AND TODAY THEIR
DECENDENTS MUST, AS DO I, FEEL A SPECIAL WARMTH IN
OFFERING SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO
HAS COME TO PERSONIFY TO AMERICA THOSE VIRTUES OF STRENGTH,
HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE, AND INATE DEMOCRACY WHICH DEFINE
THE WORD NORWEGIAN FOR US ALL. JIMMY CARTER. UNQUOTE

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT THE GIFT
POSSIBILITIES ARE. BEST REGARDS.
LERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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